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To: MVRD Board of Directors

From: Heather McNell, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Policy and Planning  
James Stiver, Division Manager of Regional Land Use Policy, Regional Planning and Housing Services  
Erin Rennie, Senior Planner, Regional Planning and Housing Services

Date: February 13, 2023 Meeting Date: February 24, 2023

Subject: **Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022 Third Reading and Final Adoption**

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### RECOMMENDATION

That the MVRD Board:

- a) give third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022* as presented in the report dated February 13, 2023, titled “Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022 Third Reading and Final Adoption”;
  - b) pass, and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*;
  - c) direct staff to notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs that the MVRD Board has adopted *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*; and
  - d) direct staff to notify all affected local governments, local First Nations, and other organizations and government agencies that participated in the development of *Metro 2050* that the MVRD Board has adopted *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*.
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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following three years of extensive engagement and policy development *Metro 2050* was read a first and second time in March 2022 and a Public Hearing was held, in April 2022. Once adopted, *Metro 2050* would repeal and replace *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future*, the current regional growth strategy. For the MVRD Board to consider third reading and to adopt the *Metro 2050* bylaw, all 24 affected local governments must first accept the update to the regional growth strategy by Council or Board resolution. In July 2022, staff reported that 22 out of 24 affected local governments had accepted the update. Subsequently, the final two affected local governments rescinded their objections and accepted *Metro 2050*.

Now that all 24 affected local governments have passed resolutions accepting *Metro 2050*, the update to the regional growth strategy, in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act*, the MVRD Board can now consider third reading and adoption of *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*.

## **PURPOSE**

To provide the MVRD Board with the opportunity to consider third reading and adoption of *Metro 2050*, the update to the regional growth strategy (*Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*).

## **BACKGROUND**

*Metro 2050* has been under development since April of 2019 when the MVRD Board directed staff to undertake a comprehensive policy review and engagement process to update *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future (Metro 2040)*, the current regional growth strategy. After three years of policy development, engagement, and review, *Metro 2050* was read a first and second time by the MVRD Board on March 25, 2022. A Public Hearing was held on April 20 and on April 29, 2022 the MVRD Board, in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act*, referred *Metro 2050* out for local government acceptance. During the 60-day acceptance period, two of the 24 local governments refused to accept *Metro 2050*. However, since that time, the councils of the City of Surrey and the Township of Langley have passed resolutions to accept *Metro 2050*.

With all 24 affected local governments having accepted *Metro 2050*, it is now possible for the MVRD Board to consider third reading and adoption of Bylaw No. 1339, 2022. By considering third reading and adoption of Bylaw No. 1339, 2022 at the same meeting, a minimum 2/3 weighted voting threshold by the Board is needed to pass.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF METRO 2050**

*Metro 2050* was scoped in the spring of 2019 to update and build on the successes of *Metro 2040*, bringing forward many of its long-standing and effective policies, while making improvements in areas where lessons had been learned after over 10 years of implementation. Recognizing the emerging and growing challenges facing the region, new policy content in key issue areas such as housing, resilience, and climate action was also part of the Board directed scope of *Metro 2050*. In addition, *Metro 2050* was scoped to align closely with *Transport 2050*, TransLink's new regional transportation strategy, and *Climate 2050*, the region's new climate action plan, both of which were also under development.

Early in the project, 11 themed Policy Reviews were completed, which included best practice research and extensive engagement, and which led to recommendations on how each of the policy areas of the regional growth strategy should be updated with *Metro 2050*. The recommendations of each policy review were endorsed by the MVRD Board and provided to all affected local governments as the basis for proposed policy updates in *Metro 2050*.

Between 2019 and 2022, the Board-endorsed *Metro 2050* Engagement Plan (Reference 1) was implemented, and staff provided quarterly engagement updates to the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board as well as summary reports at the end of every phase of engagement (References 2 to 5). Member jurisdictions, TransLink, the Province via multiple ministries, other regional agencies and organizations, and in-region First Nations contributed strongly in the development of *Metro 2050* through the Metro 2050 Intergovernmental Advisory Committee.

In July, 2021 the draft of *Metro 2050* was released for a five-month comment period. During that time, presentations were provided to all member jurisdictions, the Board of TransLink and the Board of adjacent regional districts. Over 900 comments from member jurisdictions, regional agencies and organizations, academia, and the public were submitted, and these thoughtful comments and suggestions resulted in significant improvements to *Metro 2050*, which were provided in detail back to the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board via an updated plan (Reference 6 and 7).

### **APPROVALS PROCESS**

The process for adopting or making major amendments to a regional growth strategy is set out by the *Local Government Act*. The *Act* states that all affected local governments must pass resolutions to accept the regional growth strategy, and then approval of the implementing bylaw is considered by the MVRD Board. The Board must determine whether to hold a Public Hearing, and in this instance the Board directed that one be held in April of 2022.

In summary, the approvals process to date is as follows:

- March 25, 2022 – *Bylaw No. 1339, 2022* read a first and second time (Attachment 1, Reference 8);
- April 20, 2022 – Public Hearing is held (Reference 9);
- April 29, 2022 – *Metro 2050* referred to all affected local governments for consideration, commencing a 60-day acceptance period;
- July – 22 out of 24 affected local governments accept *Metro 2050*, 2 refusals to accept are received, indicating the specific *Metro 2050* provisions to which they objected (Reference 10);
- July 29, 2022 – MVRD Board receives a report with the outcome of the acceptance period and moves to notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs and request the appointment of a facilitator to assist with a dispute resolution process. The Board also directs staff to continue to engage with Langley Township and City of Surrey staff to explore possible resolutions to the noted outstanding concerns;
- September 21, 2022 – Metro Vancouver issues a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs indicating that *Metro 2050* was not accepted by all members and requesting direction (Attachment 2); and
- November 10, 2022 – the Minister of Municipal Affairs responds with a letter acknowledging receipt of the earlier letter and indicating that further direction would be provided following the October 2022 municipal election (Attachment 3).

### **OBJECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS RESCIND REFUSALS TO ACCEPT METRO 2050**

While waiting for direction from the Minister, Metro Vancouver staff and the staff of the two objecting member jurisdictions continued to engage on the specific areas of concern. On December 12, 2022, Surrey City Council reconsidered and passed a resolution rescinding its previous objection and accepting *Metro 2050* (Attachment 4). At its meeting on January 16, 2023 Township of Langley Council similarly reconsidered and passed a resolution rescinding its previous objection and accepted *Metro 2050* (Attachment 5). The Township's acceptance was noted as being subject to the development of a memorandum of understanding to better define the Rural regional land use designation for the Salmon River Uplands area of the Township. Staff of the Township and Metro

Vancouver have begun discussing the content of the MOU and are committed to work collaboratively to develop wording that meets both the Township's interests and the shared regional vision set out by the regional growth strategy.

#### **FORTHCOMING EARLY AMENDMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Staff have identified a number of "housekeeping" amendments needed to address some minor errors and omissions and to bring *Metro 2050* into consistency with recent Regional Context Statements that have been accepted by the MVRD Board. Therefore, post-adoption of *Metro 2050* in late 2023, staff anticipate presenting to the Regional Planning Committee and MVRD Board recommendations for the following future amendments:

- Correct the mapping error identified by the Township of Langley in acceptance letter of *Metro 2050*. This is a minor error in the legend of Map 12 made at the design stage;
- Correct minor formatting errors and typos; and
- Update maps in *Metro 2050* to reflect the new Lions Bay and Pitt Meadows Regional Context Statements that were accepted by the MVRD Board in 2022 after second reading of *Metro 2050 Bylaw No. 1339, 2022* (References 11 and 12).

These are all Type 3 amendments requiring a simple majority at the MVRD Board.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. That the MVRD Board:
  - a) give third reading to *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022* as presented in the report dated February 13, 2023, titled "Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022 Third Reading and Final Adoption";
  - b) pass, and finally adopt *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*;
  - c) direct staff to notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs that the MVRD Board has adopted *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*; and
  - d) direct staff to notify all affected local governments, local First Nations, and other organizations and government agencies that participated in the development of *Metro 2050* that the MVRD Board has adopted the *Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*.
2. That the MVRD Board receive for information the report dated February 13, 2023, titled "Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022 Third Reading and Final Adoption", and provide alternative direction to staff.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

If the Board chooses Alternative 1, *Metro 2050* will replace *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future* as the regional growth strategy for Metro Vancouver. Metro Vancouver will notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs, affected local governments, local First Nations, regional agencies and organizations, and others who participated on the Intergovernmental Advisory Committee, or were engaged throughout the *Metro 2050* process.

Staff are now working closely with External Relations staff to prepare a communication and promotions roll-out plan. Promotional expenses are included in the Board-approved 2023 Regional Planning budget.

If the Board chooses Alternative 2, *Metro Vancouver 2040: Shaping our Future* will continue to be the regional growth strategy for Metro Vancouver. Staff will notify the Minister of Municipal Affairs and request direction on how to proceed.

### **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

If the Board chooses Alternative 1 it will initiate the two-year period within which member jurisdictions are required by the *Local Government Act* to update their Regional Context Statements and submit them to the MVRD Board for consideration of acceptance. Regional Context Statements must demonstrate how the Official Community Plan (or equivalent) is generally consistent with *Metro 2050* or, if not consistent, demonstrate how they will become more consistent over time.

Metro Vancouver will draft Implementation Guidelines and other resources to support member jurisdictions in their work on the Regional Context Statements, and staff are always available to provide implementation support as needed.

### **CONCLUSION**

*Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022*, was read a first and second time in March of 2022. During the local government acceptance period between May and June of 2022, 22 out of 24 affected local governments accepted *Metro 2050* by resolution, while the City of Surrey and the Township of Langley refused to accept. Subsequently, in December of 2022 the City of Surrey rescinded its refusal and accepted *Metro 2050*, and in January of 2023 the Township of Langley also accepted *Metro 2050*.

Now that all affected local governments have accepted *Metro 2050*, third reading and adoption of Bylaw No. 1339, 2022 can be considered by the MVRD Board. Following its adoption, *Metro 2050* will replace *Metro 2040* as the regional growth strategy and a two-year period within which member jurisdictions must prepare and submit Regional Context Statements demonstrating local alignment with the regional growth strategy would begin. Staff recommend Alternative 1.

### **Attachments**

1. Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022
2. Letter to Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated September 21, 2022
3. Letter from Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated November 10, 2022
4. Letter from Surrey City Council, dated December 15, 2022, Re: Status on the Dispute Resolution Process for Non-Acceptance of the Metro Vancouver Regional Growth Strategy
5. Letter from Langley Township Council, dated January 20, 2023, Re: MVRD Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022, a bylaw to adopt Metro 2050

## References

1. [Metro 2050 Engagement Plan, Report, August 15, 2019](#)
2. [Metro 2050 Q2 / Q3 2021 Status Update, Report, October 8, 2021](#)
3. [Metro 2050 Phase 1 Engagement Report, March 5, 2021](#)
4. [Comments on the Draft of Metro 2050 and Proposed Next Steps, Report, January 14, 2022](#)
5. [Metro 2050 Phase 2 Engagement Including Activities in Q4 2021, Report, February 8, 2022](#)
6. [Metro 2050 Issue-Response Table](#)
7. [Metro 2050 Engagement website](#)
8. [Consideration of Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022, a bylaw to adopt Metro 2050, Report, March 9, 2022](#)
9. [MVRD Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022, a bylaw to adopt Metro 2050 – Public Hearing Minutes and Bylaw Referral for Acceptance, Report dated April 22, 2022](#)
10. [Metro 2050 – Outcome of Acceptance Period and Next Steps, Report dated July 12, 2022](#)
11. [Village of Lions Bay Regional Context Statement, Report dated July 8, 2022](#)
12. [City of Pitt Meadows’ Regional Context Statement, Report dated July 12, 2022](#)

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METRO VANCOUVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
BYLAW NO. 1339, 2022

A Bylaw to Adopt a Regional Growth Strategy for the Metro Vancouver Regional District

WHEREAS:

- A. Part 13 of the *Local Government Act* provides for a regional district to undertake the development, adoption, implementation, monitoring, and review of a regional growth strategy; and
- B. The Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District by resolution on April 26, 2019 initiated the review of "Greater Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw Number 1136, 2010" pursuant to section 433 of the *Local Government Act*.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the Metro Vancouver Regional District enacts as follows:

Citation

- 1. The official citation of this bylaw is "Metro Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw No. 1339, 2022". This bylaw may be cited as "Metro 2050".

Repeal of Bylaw

- 2. "Greater Vancouver Regional District Regional Growth Strategy Bylaw Number 1136, 2010", as amended, is hereby repealed.

Schedule

- 3. The following Schedule is attached to and forms part of the bylaw:  
Schedule "A", Metro 2050, Regional Growth Strategy for the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

Regional Growth Strategy

- 4. Schedule "A", Metro 2050, Regional Growth Strategy for the Metro Vancouver Regional District, is adopted and designated as the regional growth strategy for the Metro Vancouver Regional District.

Read a first time this 25 day of MARCH, 2022.

Read a second time this 25 day of MARCH, 2022.

Public Hearing held the 20 day of April, 2022.

Read a third time this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Passed and finally adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Accepted, by Resolution:

- by the Village of Anmore on the 17 day of MAY, 2022
- by the Village of Belcarra on the 20 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Burnaby on the 20 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Coquitlam on the 13 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Delta on the 13 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Langley on the 13 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the Township of Langley on the 16 day of JANUARY, 2023
- by the Village of Lions Bay on the 7 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Maple Ridge on the 10 day of MAY, 2022
- by the City of New Westminster on the 30 day of MAY, 2022
- by the City of North Vancouver on the 30 day of MAY, 2022
- by the District of North Vancouver on the 20 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Pitt Meadows on the 21 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Port Coquitlam on the 28 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Port Moody on the 14 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Richmond on the 30 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Surrey on the 12 day of DECEMBER, 2022
- by the Tsawwassen First Nation on the 14 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of Vancouver on the 21 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the District of West Vancouver on the 13 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the City of White Rock on the 27 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the Fraser Valley Regional District on the 29 day of JUNE, 2022
- by the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District on the 25 day of MAY, 2022
- by the South Coast British Columbia Transportation Authority on the 23 day of JUNE, 2022

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George V. Harvie, Chair

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Dorothy Shermer, Corporate Officer